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281—24.4(260C) Accreditation components and criteria—Higher Learning Commission. In order to be accredited by the state board of education and maintain accreditation status, a community college must meet the accreditation criteria of the Higher Learning Commission and additional state standards. The Higher Learning Commission accreditation criteria are as follows:

24.4(1) *Mission and integrity.*

- a. The organization's mission documents are clear and articulate publicly the organization's commitments.
- b. In its mission documents, the organization recognizes the diversity of its learners, other constituencies, and the greater society it serves.
 - c. Understanding of and support for the mission pervade the organization.
- d. The organization's governance and administrative structures promote effective leadership and support collaborative processes that enable the organization to fulfill its mission.
 - e. The organization upholds and protects its integrity.

24.4(2) *Preparing for the future.*

- a. The organization realistically prepares for a future shaped by multiple societal and economic trends.
- b. The organization's resource base supports its educational programs and its plans for maintaining and strengthening the program's quality in the future.
- c. The organization's ongoing evaluation and assessment processes provide reliable evidence of institutional effectiveness that clearly informs strategies for continuous improvement.
- d. All levels of planning align with the organization's mission, thereby enhancing the organization's capacity to fulfill that mission.

24.4(3) *Student learning and effective teaching.*

- a. The organization's goals for student learning outcomes are clearly stated for each educational program and make effective assessment possible.
 - b. The organization values and supports effective teaching.
 - c. The organization creates effective learning environments.
 - d. The organization's learning resources support student learning and effective teaching.

24.4(4) Acquisition, discovery, and application of knowledge.

- a. The organization demonstrates, through the actions of its board, administrators, students, faculty, and staff, that it values a life of learning.
- b. The organization demonstrates that acquisition of a breadth of knowledge and skills and the exercise of intellectual inquiry are integral to its educational programs.
- c. The organization assesses the usefulness of its curricula to students who will live and work in a global, diverse, and technological society.
- d. The organization provides support to ensure that faculty, students, and staff acquire, discover, and apply knowledge responsibly.

24.4(5) *Engagement and service.*

- a. The organization learns from the constituencies it serves and analyzes its capacity to serve their needs and expectations.
- b. The organization has the capacity and the commitment to engage with its identified constituencies and communities.
- c. The organization demonstrates its responsiveness to those constituencies that depend on the organization for service.
 - d. Internal and external constituencies value the services the organization provides.